



DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL

An Aldridge Community Academy



27th April 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to remind you of the importance of good attendance and punctuality to the academy and how detrimental a poor attendance and punctuality can be, and its effects on the long-term educational outcomes of your child.

Below are the figures, by year group, for our school's current academic year compared to national averages (Sept – March, pre COVID).

| Year Group | National Average Pre COVID | Darwen Vale 2022-23 |
|------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 7 | 95.6% | 91.7% |
| 8 | 94.8% | 87.7% |
| 9 | 94.2% | 88.5% |
| 10 | 93.8% | 87.6% |
| 11 | 93.8% | 89.6% |
| National | 95.3% | 89.0% |

As you can see, we are not at the attendance levels we need to be to ensure our learners make the maximum academic progress. The expectation is that students will achieve a minimum attendance of **95%** between now and the summer closure. The table below shows the effect of absence in terms of lessons missed.

| If your attendance in a school year was ... | You would have lost approximately... | You would have missed approximately... |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| 95% | 9 Days | 45 Lessons |
| 90% | 19 Days | 95 Lessons |
| 85% | 29 Days | 145 Lessons |
| 80% | 38 Days | 190 Lessons |
| 75% | 48 Days | 240 Lessons |

The current scientific evidence states that pupils with no absence are 2.2 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs 5-9 or equivalent and 2.8 times more likely to achieve 5+ GCSEs 5-9 or equivalent including English and mathematics, than pupils missing 15-20% of school.

Attendance at school will be compulsory and any non-attendance will be dealt with in the usual manner. Should your child's attendance fall below 90% you will be classed as persistence absence and are vulnerable to a fine. Can I also remind all parents that any holidays taken during term time will be classed as unauthorised absence and will result in a fine, as recommended by the government.

We do appreciate that children do fall ill during term time, and I would like to remind you of the importance of reporting that absence. Should you need to report an absence you should complete the online form found on the academies website, this form should be completed by 8:30am. Failure to complete the online form will result in an authorised absence. Should your child fall below 90% attendance, all absences regardless of notification will be classed as persistent and no longer be authorised without medical documentation. I



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encourage you to look at the attendance section of our school website which contains recommended days absent for common illnesses as supplied by the NHS.

For the reasons stated in the letter you will now be aware of the importance of school attendance, the impact poor attendance will have on your child's educational outcomes, how to report absence and what will happen should you child be absent from school. I am sure that with your continued support and engagement with school we will see attendance grow and ensure the life chances of our students are not affected. Should you wish to discuss any of the above information with me please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Andrew Bradley
(Assistant Principal)